

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 19, 2009

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 30**

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**Introduced by Senator Simitian**

April 13, 2009

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30—Relative to the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 30, as amended, Simitian. Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified segment of State Highway Route 82 in the City of Palo Alto as the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Elizabeth T. (Betty) Meltzer was best known in  
2 Palo Alto for her environmental efforts, including being a key  
3 organizer of the ~~“Trees for El Camino Project”~~ *Dream of a*  
4 *Thousand Trees for El Camino Real Project* in Palo Alto, and as  
5 a cofounder with Ellen Wyman of Palo Alto Tomorrow, an  
6 organization that successfully promoted sensible growth in  
7 downtown Palo Alto; and  
8 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was born on May 3, 1939, in San  
9 Francisco to Anna Rose and Sam Taylor, and moved to Palo Alto  
10 in 1948, where she graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1956;  
11 and

1 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer graduated from Smith College in  
2 1960 and received her master's degree in education from Stanford  
3 University in 1961; and

4 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer married Bob Meltzer and resided in  
5 New York City before later returning to Palo Alto with her family;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Beginning in the mid 1980's, Betty Meltzer began  
8 her community organizing for a better Palo Alto with the  
9 cofounding of Palo Alto Tomorrow; and

10 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was also a graduate of the first class  
11 in 1987 of the "Leadership Palo Alto" (later "Leadership  
12 Midpeninsula") program designed to train both citizens and  
13 government people on how to contribute to local civic betterment;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was an active member in the Palo  
16 Alto Garden Club and the Palo Alto Women's Club; and

17 WHEREAS, Education was one of Betty Meltzer's passions:  
18 she taught in the Palo Alto Unified School District for five years,  
19 trained blind people how to read, and for many years tutored  
20 elementary school students who had reading disabilities; and

21 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer served on the board of the former  
22 Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation (PCCF), now Acterra,  
23 and was especially active in creating the Business Environmental  
24 Network, which gave awards to environmentally outstanding  
25 businesses; and

26 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was cofounder with Susan Rosenberg  
27 of the ~~Trees for El Camino~~ *Dream of a Thousand Trees for El*  
28 *Camino Real* Project which aided the City of Palo Alto in obtaining  
29 the funding for hundreds of new trees along the 4.3 miles of El  
30 Camino Real in Palo Alto; and

31 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer, who was known for her tenacious  
32 attitude and steadfast commitment to her work for the City of Palo  
33 Alto, was able to work with the Department of Transportation to  
34 relax the department's regulations on the planting of trees in road  
35 medians in order to realize her dream of seeing Palo Alto's portion  
36 of El Camino Real become a welcoming, tree-lined boulevard;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, The distinguished life of Betty Meltzer ended on  
39 September 29, 2008; and

1 WHEREAS, It is therefore appropriate to designate a portion  
2 of State Highway Route 82 (El Camino Real) as the Betty Meltzer  
3 Memorial Highway, now therefore, be it,

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
5 *thereof concurring,* That in recognition of the numerous  
6 achievements and contributions of Elizabeth T. (Betty) Meltzer,  
7 the Legislature hereby designates the segment of State Highway  
8 Route 82 between Page Mill Road (*PM 24.04*) and San  
9 Francisquito Creek (*SCL/SM County line, PM 26.37*) in the City  
10 of Palo Alto as the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway; and be it  
11 further

12 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested  
13 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the  
14 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this  
15 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
16 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it  
17 further

18 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
19 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the  
20 author for appropriate distribution.